

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:PKJOHNSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 165708 TOSEC 070008

NODIS

FOL AMMAN 4769 SENT ACTION SECSTATE JULY 15; REPEATED TO
YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 4769

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

EE.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, US, JO, XF

SUBJECT: TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER

REF: SECTO 06055

1. CONVEYED MESSAGE REFTEL TO PRIME MINISTER WHO WAS
GRATEFUL. SAYS HE SEES HOPEFUL SIGNS FOR FUTURE AND STILL
REMAINS OPTIMISTIC. PAID SPECIAL ATTENTION TO STATEMENT THAT
SYRIAN-ISRAELI EFFORTS ARE REQUIRED OR A FOLLOW-ON AND
THAT ANY NEXT STEP WITH EGYPT CANNOT BE ACHIEVED IN
ISOLATION.

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2. MAIN SUBJECT ON HIS MIND, AS IT WAS WITH KING WHEN

I SAW HIM BRIEFLY MORNING JULY 14 AT AIRPORT, WAS
QUESTION OF CONGRESSIONAL EFFORTS TO BLOCK HAWK AND

AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT SALE TO JORDAN.

3. RIFAI WAS CATEGORICAL ON TWO POINTS: (A) THAT
JORDAN WOULD HAVE TO GO WHEREVER NECESSARY TO GET
AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT. AT SOME COST IN ITS
RELATIONS WITH SYRIA IT HAD HELD OUT FOR US EQUIPMENT.
IT WANTED US EQUIPMENT AND WOULD PAY CASH AND
WAS NOT ASKING FOR AID. BUT IF THE US COULD NOT HELP, AND IT
WOULD BE A MOST SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT FOR THEM IF THE US
COULD NOT, THEN THEY WOULD HAVE TO GO WHEREVER THEY COULD
TO GET ASSISTANCE. FOR THE FIRST TIME JORDAN WOULD
THEN HAVE TO SACRIFICE ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US TO
ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS ARAB FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND
BACKERS. IT WOULD NOT BE A PLEASANT CHOICE, BUT
IF PUT IN THAT POSITION ON VITAL ISSUE OF AIR DEFENSE, JORDAN
WOULD HAVE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE. SYRIAN PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE
MEETING HIM ON JULY 28 IN THE FIRST JOINT HIGH COMMISSION
MEETING AND THERE WOULD BE PRESSURE FOR STATIONING
SYRIAN TROOPS HERE WHICH UP TO NOW HAD BEEN RESISTED
ON THE BASIS THAT JORDAN WANTED AND WAS GETTING US
AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT AND HAD NO NEED FOR SYRIAN HELP.
A SECOND FACTOR (B) WAS THAT JORDAN HAD USED HAWK SALE AS
AN ARGUMENT AGAINST A JOINT COMMAND WITH SYRIA MAKING IT
CLEAR TO SYRIANS THAT COMMAND WOULD UNDERCUT
GOJ'S ABILITY TO BUY HAWKS FROM THE US WHICH IT WANTED.
IF US NOW REFUSED TO SELL, THEN REVERSE LOGIC WOULD APPLY
AND THEN WOULD BE NO RATIONALE FOR JORDAN ON WHICH TO
BASE ITS RESISTANCE TO SYRIAN INTEREST IN AND PRESSURE
FOR A JOINT COMMAND.

4. RIFAI CONCLUDED, AS KING HAS, THAT THIS IS MOST
SIGNIFICANT ISSUE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP AND HARKED
BACK TO THE SOVIET ARTILLERY DEAL IN 1969-1970 WHEN
AT THE LAST MOMENT US CHANGED ITS MIND AND AGREED TO
PROVIDE MILITARY SUPPORT FOR JORDAN IN A TIME OF
INTENSE NEED, BUT WITH UNHAPPY RESULTS IN JORDAN'S
RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS AND OTHER ARABS. PICKERING
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UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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